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Humans are scary.

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Most of the Galaxy's species are hardier. Stronger, faster, even tougher. But if you ask any warrior of the Hithraxi or an Ianami Warbringer which species they would least like to meet on the battlefield, almost every single one will answer "Human." Humans aren't particularly strong, a Mitosian worker drone can easily do anything a Human can so long as the task requires some strength. They aren't particularly fast, a Keldori can walk as fast as a Human can jog. They aren't particularly tough, they aren't covered with a hardened exterior like you might find on the Dorg, or other species who are neither strong nor fast.

No, what makes humans scary are two assets unique to them. Their regenerative abilities, and what Humans call "imagination." On their own, such abilities are rare amongst the various species of the Galaxy. A Hithraxi warrior is easily capable of lifting a stone many times its own size, whereas the strongest of humans have to vigilantly work to maintain its strength to even approach that level. But a Hithraxi who tears too many muscle fibers in its appendages loses the limb, and has to undergo life threatening surgery to regrow it afterwards. Humans tear their muscle fibers all the time, and in all but the most extreme circumstances, all they need is a full planet cycle's rest in order to recover from it. What's more, the strain induced from such an act would only form more muscle fibers to not only replace the lost and torn fibers, but coax the Human body to create more. This results in the Human's strength growing, and is probably the source of the old Human adage; "What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger."

If one were to attack both a Human and a Dorg with a claw or melee weapon, they would find that, while the Human's external layer is easy to penetrate, compared to the armored shell of a Dorg, a Human's body will only need to recover for a few cycles, provided no major organs are struck. Whereas a Dorg's muscles may need several dozen Lunars in order to fully recover, provided that the Dorg in question is still young, in their formative phase.

This unheard of regeneration rate, (again unique to humans,) is formidable on its own. But what makes Humans scary is how they realize their regenerative properties give them an edge in survival situations, and have combined it with their previously mentioned "imagination." Now, what is this concept, you might be wondering. "Imagination" refers to a Human's innate ability to grasp abstract concepts, or come up with ideas the same way researchers and scientists do in other species. What makes Humans unique is that there isn't a simple caste or other group of individuals in their species that share this trait. All Humans have imagination, from the youngest human broodling, to the honored elders of their kind, each of them can grasp new ideas in ways other species would have difficulty even comprehending.

What makes Humans scary is that their imaginations, coupled with their advanced regenerative abilities, allows for the birth of an entirely new concept: cybernetic augmentation. For most species, the idea of implanting a tiny supercomputer in your mind in

order for it to run parallel processes is suicidal, but Humans, with their regenerative properties, can not only survive such surgeries as to make the insane idea viable, they can do it at such a rate that nearly every Human has in some way, shape, or form, become cybernetically augmented. Some humans cannot naturally run as fast as a Keldori. So they implant specialized cybernetics in their legs to help them keep pace. Some humans cannot match a Hithraxi in strength, so they lop off their arms and replace those with cybernetics much more powerful than human muscles, and ones that can easily be repaired if damaged. Even when augmented in this way on a minimalistic level, Humans are scary. Perhaps, more scary than their fully augmented brethren.

One human in particular, a bounty hunter by the name of "Robin," gave himself a single piece of cybernetics; an implant directly at the base of his skull. On its own, it only allowed him to think faster, and interface with computer systems without the need to be physically at a terminal. But it also allowed him to develop a terrifying weapon, one he used to perform his tasks with deadly efficiency.

I had the privilege of seeing this bounty hunter in action, once. It was at a small refueling station on the edge of the Vega system. A violent Teldori criminal was running from the Galactic Concord's authority. The Concord had put out a Bounty on the wanted murderer Xis'ka'el, and it was Robin who made the capture. Xis'ka'el had stopped at the station to get fuel for his ship. Everyone immediately recognized him, but being that Teldori were Deathworld predators by nature, no one wanted to interfere with him, myself included. Then, a small Human vessel stopped to refuel. The Human must've recognized Xis'ka'el's vessel, because he had docked in the opposite side of the same hangar.

When the Human stepped out, no one wanted to get in his way. Everyone recognized the armor of a Human warrior, having seen the news feeds of the First and Second Terran System Wars. Robin had five long, metallic blades attached to his backpack. Personal scans showed them as melee weapons. I think I was the only one willing to scan him when I saw him disembark in the hangar, though if he detected my scan, he gave no sign of it. I had been on my way to run a diagnostic of my ship in preparation for takeoff four fractions later, but I felt I could put it off for a time. I saw the bounty hunter emblem on Robin's shoulder, and I knew Xis'ka'el was present on the station. So I was eager to see how things would play out.

I think it's prudent at this time to mention that I'm a journalist, though I am only just now breaking into the field. And I couldn't let this chance to see a bounty hunter catch a criminal pass me by, especially since both of the belligerents were Deathworlders. I engaged my camera drone, and followed the Human as he made his way into the station. It didn't take long for the Bounty Hunter to find his quarry. Xis'ka'el was seated at a small table in the food court, waiting for clearance from the station AI to contact him to tell him that his ship has been fully refueled and decontaminated. The Human walked with purpose up to the table, the dark visor on his helmet focused intently on the Teldori in front of him.

What makes Teldori threatening is a combination of four arms ending in three hands tipped with claws, and a large jaw filled with two rows of teeth. They are a carnivorous predator on their homeworld, and in extreme cases such as Xis'ka'el, they were willing

to hunt and eat other sapient creatures. Aside from the five melee weapons on Robin's back, I saw no other weaponry on his person. I wondered how a Human, with half the number of limbs as his quarry, would even bother with more than two such weapons. Not only that, their size made them unwieldy for a human using only one hand, so why would he have five? The answer came to me as the confrontation swiftly began.

I had made the mistake of not properly tuning my translator, so I can only give you a general idea of what was said. Robin had declared his intent to arrest Xis'ka'el, and urged him to cooperate so no one got hurt. The Teldori replied with a low growl, kicking the table at the Human before jumping into a combat stance, declaring his intent to turn Robin into a meal. I saw Robin back away from Xis'ka'el, before putting his hand up to the side of his head, and what I saw both amazed me and confused me. All five melee weapons on Robin's back suddenly flew out of their holdings, and began hovering near his body, pointing themselves at Xis'ka'el.

This astounded me, as I knew of only two races that had been confirmed to have some sort of psionic power, and neither of those species showed psionics on this level. I would learn later that Robin's implant allowed him to use his own thoughts to direct personal drones. These drones that he kept with him took the form of five longswords, as they're called on his homeworld. And seeing these five melee weapons floating around this Human unsettled the Teldori criminal. Several times, Xis'ka'el attempted to lunge at Robin, and each time, one of the swords swiped at his reptilian aggressor, causing him to back away. Teldori are generally stronger and faster than Humans, and with four limbs, they can easily rip apart a primate species like Humans in unarmed combat. But Humans make up for this difference in personal combat ability through the use of unique tools, as demonstrated by the clash I saw before me. Whenever Xis'ka'el attempted to get close or run away, Robin responded with one of his swords, keeping the criminal where he was. This tense exchange went on for a good five microfractions, before Xis'ka'el got desperate, and made to take a bystander hostage. As soon as Robin realized what was happening, one of his swords acted, and chopped off Xis'ka'el's hand. The Teldori roared in pain as he stumbled back, and two more swords pinned him to the wall by the neck, before the combination of the missing limb and the reminder that the floating melee weapons were still a threat convinced Xis'ka'el to surrender.

I didn't get a chance to interview Robin, only learning his name from the station authorities as the Human returned to his ship with his quarry in tow. Apparently he had already filled out the necessary forms for taking Xis'ka'el into custody, and transmitted them before his ship had even docked. Usually such things are done after a prisoner has been confirmed to be in custody, yet this human Bounty Hunter did it before he even set foot on the refueling station, as if he knew how the confrontation would end. Was this done out of arrogance, or confidence? Who can say. But with his choice in weaponry, I personally am in the latter camp. After all, who would be imaginative enough to have a way to deal with flying melee weapons? Only a human would be able to even come up with something like that. And that made me believe one thing for certain.

Humans are scary.

A/n: I posted this on YouTube, and got comments saying I should post it here. After some editing, I decided to take their advice. Let me know your thoughts.